1: Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

Several types of local grass, if cultivated, can be used for lawns. The best method of planting a lawn is by "dubbing in" small clumps of grass about six inches apart from each other. In two or three months the grass will cover the ground. It requires liberal watering especially during the summer, in the winter time it lies dormant. After three or four years lawns are apt to become thin and patchy, the grass should then be dug up and a new lawn laid down. The best kind of grass for lawns is "Nejma" which means a star, so called owing to the star shaped seed pod which it produces and "Murani," both can be obtained easily from any cultivated ground.

Most European vegetables can be grown in Bahrain and if planted in October quite a small garden should provide vegetables for a household from December until the beginning of June. Gardeners, if left to their own devices, are apt to use old seed which they have collected from previous crops; this almost always results in failure. The following are the most easily grown vegetables, Beetroot, Cabbage, family Carrot, Celery, Leek, Lettuce, Onion, Parsley, Radish, Spinach, Turnip. Peas and Beans do not seem to thrive in Bahrain. Tomatoes are grown extensively in the country and can be bought cheaply in the bazaar, so unless one has plenty of space it is hardly worth cultivating them. They ripen in Bahrain before they ripen in Iraq and at the beginning of the season they are exported from Bahrain to Basra.

Asparagus, Artichoke (Jerusalem) and Brussel sprouts have been grown from seed with rather uncertain results. Sweet Basil (Mashmoom) and Dill are herbs which are found in almost every garden, Mint grows well and retains its perennial habit but most of the other English herbs are not successful.

In the summer only local and somewhat uninspiring vegetables are obtainable, the best of these are Aubergine, Cucumber, Ladies Fingers, Pumpkin, Marrow and Sweet Potatoes.

One of the problems in Bahrain is how to obtain sufficient fertiliser. Before so many people took an interest in gardening cow manure could be obtained by anyone who sent a cart to remove it from the owner's shed. Today it is a marketable commodity and has to be paid for.

In spite of all difficulties gardening in Bahrain is a popular hobby, not only among the Europeans but also among the Arabs.

CHAPTER III

MISCELLANEOUS

AIR FARES

The following air lines make scheduled stops at Bahrain :—

British Overseas Airways Ltd.	Cyprus Airways,
Gulf Aviation Ltd.,	Iraki Airways,
Djibouti Airways,	Middle East Airways,
	T.A.I.

5: Bahrain G-5 (1926-1937) 1937 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

cotton under the supervision of the agricultural expert. It was sown in three or four different gardens and on a three-acre patch of new land close to the town, which was lent for the purpose by Khan Bahadur Abdul Aziz Gosaibi. In two of the gardens, though 95% of the seeds germinated, all the plants died before reaching full growth. In the three-acre plot, which was sown in April, the experiment was successful. The seed germinated well and produced a crop of good quantity and quality, which was well reported on by the Cotton-Growing Association in Baghdad. Unfortunately, the price of cotton at that time was so low as to discourage any private individuals from spending money on cultivating it again. The success of the crop proved, however, that it is possible to grow cotton in Bahrain. 248

Tobacco. During the last two years tobacco has been grown as a commercial proposition by Shaikh Abdullah bin Isa AlKhalifah and by Mr. Hussein Yateem. Locally grown tobacco was sold in the bazaar, and it is understood that a slight profit was made. 249

Fruit Trees. A variety of fruit trees grow in Bahrain, but most of the fruit is of poor quality, as the trees are neglected and never pruned. The only fruit which is grown in any quantity is the citrus and the loz, the other fruit trees are negligible in number and are only found in a few gardens. 245

Fruit trees grown in Bahrain:

Citrus	Peach	Pomegranate
Lime	Fig	Guava
Orange	Grape	Custard apple
Mango	Apricot	Loz
Pawpaw	Loquat	Mulberry

The Government planted about 250 orange trees some years ago; the trees bore fruit of very large size and good quality, but in five years a great number of the trees died. Those that remain produce good crops of oranges every year. Each year during the rainy season a number of trees died, apparently, because the salty earth was splashed up over the lower branches by the rain. In Bahrain, trees frequently die in this way after heavy rain.

Vegetables. Ten years ago, no European vegetables were grown in Bahrain; to-day, a number of the Arabs are growing vegetables in their garden and selling them, very profitably, in the bazaar. Owing to the increase in the European and Indian population, there is a great demand for fresh vegetables. The following species can be grown easily and successfully in Bahrain: 244

Cabbage	Radishes	Onions
Cauliflower	Spinach	Swedes
Carrots	Lettuces	Celery
Turnips	Beetroot	Potatoes
Artichokes	Sugar beet	Tomatoes

There is a steadily increasing demand in Bahrain for agricultural produce, there is land which could be irrigated and which would produce crops, and the results of the few experiments which have been made show that it is possible to grow a number of trees, crops, and vegetables which have never been cultivated on a large scale. All wood for fuel and for building is imported into Bahrain, with the exception of palm trunks, which are of small use. It has now been proved that a number of fast-growing trees will flourish in Bahrain, and their timber provides good fuel.

During the present year several thousand men, who are now working as coolies on the Refinery construction of the Bahrain Petroleum Company, will be discharged and will find themselves unemployed. Owing to the state of the pearling industry, they will not be taken on as divers, and their employment will present a problem to the Government. They now think that they will obtain employment with the Hasa oil company, but this is unlikely. Both land and labour are available, and the Government can now afford to continue the work, which had to be dropped some years ago owing to lack of funds, of increasing and exploiting the agricultural possibilities of Bahrain.